

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 7 and 13 are amended. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner Sax at the interview held May 10, 2004, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration (since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution); and (c) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sklut et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,790,119) and Angiulo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,456,304). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

During the personal interview, it was agreed that a combination of Sklut and Angiulo does not disclose, suggest or render obvious an image reproducing method or surface that includes at least the step of displaying parameter setting menus that are contextually independent of each other, as recited in independent claims 1, 7 and 13.

Instead, Sklut discloses a job ticket programming system including a user interface and an application server.

Angiulo discloses a user interface toolbar and method to make a series of selections in a procedural order.

Accordingly, Applicants assert that independent claims 1, 7 and 13, and their dependent claims are patentable over a combination of Sklut and Angiulo. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-20 earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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